

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Coleman-Slawson

SUBJECT: Statement of Pedro Gutierrez Valencia

In a letter to President Johnson dated December 2, 1963 and in three statements summarized by the FBI in Commission Nos 564, 566, and 663, Gutierrez has stated that on September 30, 1963 or on October 1, 1963, probably the latter, he saw a Cuban give money to an American, just outside the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, and he claims now to identify the American now as Oswald. He fixes the time of the event as approximately 10:50 a.m.

The Mexican police check of Gutierrez shows him to be a responsible and respected person, and a car answering the description of the one he claims to have seen the American and Cuban enter^g has been found to have been registered during the years 1963-64 under what is probably a fictitious name. His statements must therefore be given serious consideration.

The following inquiries might be worthwhile:

1. Guiterrez says that the woman whose credit he checked showed him a card which identified her as a "second counselor" of the Cuban Embassy. (Commission No. 564, page 4.) Perhaps CIA or FBI or some other source has a way of finding

out what person or persons carried the title of "second counselor" at this time. Gutierrez has also suggested that the name of the person may have been Maria Luisa Calderon. (Commission No. 566, page 10.) He should be asked how he got this name and, in addition, it should be a rather easy matter to check to see whether any person with this name was listed in the Mexico City telephone directory or in the official Mexican records of employees of the Cuban Embassy, etc.

2. One of the essential aspects of Gutierrez' story is that he noticed considerable detail because he was immediately alarmed by what he saw, since it appeared sinister and illegal, and because he is a staunch anti-communist and was therefore especially alert to something which appeared to be a communist plot. For these reasons, he says he tried his best to overhear the conversation and observe as much as he could and even to follow the Cuban and American car in his own car. The obvious question is why, if he felt so alarmed about the whole thing, he did not report it immediately to the responsible Mexican authorities. His answer to this question may shed ^{light} ~~light~~ ^{up} considerable light on whether he is making up the whole affair.

3. The CIA has reported to the Commission that Oswald was observed in "mid-morning" at the office of the Soviet Military Attache in Mexico City. CIA has also reported

that Oswald was told by the Military Attaché that he should inquiry at the Soviet Embassy, since the Military Attaché knew nothing about his problem, and that Oswald did in fact then go to the Russian Embassy and spoke with the guard there.

Since Gutierrez

now fixes the time of Oswald's appearance at the Cuban Embassy as 10:50 a.m. on October 1, the same day as the CIA's very reliable source states he was at the Soviet Military Attaché and the Soviet Embassy, the possibility of conflict as to the times should be explored.

4. The automobile in which the payoff was supposedly to have occurred has been traced, possibly, to a certain "Arturo Gaona Elias," who may or may not be the same person as the man of the same name who is in the bug-spray business and who lives in Sonora, Mexico. It should not be too difficult to establish by checking of the man in Sonora's employers, etc. whether he could have been in Mexico City at the time in question. I assume, however, that this kind of follow-up is already under way.

5. If Oswald received any large amounts of money he certainly did not have them in his possession when he was arrested in Dallas. It certainly would seem worthwhile that a routine check of the bank accounts and safety deposit boxes throughout the Mexico City area should be made for Oswald and

his known aliases. This kind of check probably ought to be made on general principles, quite apart from the Gutierrez assertions.

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Coleman-Slawson
SUBJECT: Statement of Gilberte Alvarado Ugarte

Our entire file on Gilberte Alvarado Ugarte (hereafter "Alvarado") consists of the first CIA report on Mexico (Commission No. 347) and the file received from the United States Department of State on the memoranda and correspondence between Washington and the American Embassy in Mexico City shortly after the assassination, when Ambassador Mann was in charge there (Commission No. 442).

We first learned about Alvarado on November 26, 1963 when he walked into the U. S. Embassy in Mexico City and claimed that he had been in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City on September 18 and saw a man he now realized to have been Oswald given \$6500 in cash to kill someone. CIA has stated that Alvarado is clearly a trained intelligence agent and able to described people and locations well. His story remained unshaken by intensive interrogation, even though it was subsequently pointed out to him that from other evidence we had on Oswald's whereabouts it was extremely unlikely that he could have been in Mexico City on September 18. Under intensive interrogation by the Mexican police Alvarado signed a statement on November 30 that he had fabricated the whole story. However,

when he was released by the Mexicans Alvarado came to the American Embassy again and claimed that the statement was false and had been extorted from him under threat of "extreme duress." CIA and FBI in Mexico City therefore continued the interrogation. Alvarado voluntarily agreed to a lie detector test and therefore a CIA polygraph expert gave him the test. He flunked it. The conclusion of the polygraph expert was that he had fabricated the story about Oswald "in toto."

The CIA points out that when Alvarado first told his story he could have known from newspaper stories in Mexico City that Oswald had visited the Cuban Embassy there and he could also have heard the rumors then current to the effect that Oswald had \$5,000 with him when he returned to the United States. When shown the results of the polygraph test, Alvarado said something to the effect that perhaps the machine ^{and} was right, he may have been mistaken.

The second apparent flaw in Alvarado's story is his insistence that he telephoned the American Embassy four times on September 20 and the days immediately following, that he used Embassy Extension 181 and called himself "Jorge Kynaut" (phonetic), and that in each call he was connected with and spoke with a woman. This extension number would be to the Embassy security officer, the same number and the same officer to which Alvarado was referred when he telephoned the Embassy

on November 25. No one at the Embassy seems to remember any such calls. (Commission No. 442, page 17.)

There is also something in the Ambassador Mann file to the effect that Alvarado finally changed his story on the September 18 date when confronted with firm evidence that Oswald could not have been in Mexico City at that time.